

Weather Whys

What

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

Impact

NWR, the “Voice of the National Weather Service”, is the fastest, most reliable method to receive weather information directly from the National Weather Service.



Factoids

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information direct from a nearby National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "all hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards--both natural (such as earthquakes and volcano activity) and environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills).

Known as the "Voice of the National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 750 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal. Broadcasts are found in the public service band at these seven frequencies (MHz): 162.400, 162.425, 162.450, 162.475, 162.500, 162.525 and 162.550.

The National Weather Service in Gaylord provides programming to 5 NWR transmitters. These include KIG-74 on 162.550 MHz from Sault Ste Marie, KIG-83 on 162.550 MHz from Alpena, KIH-22 on 162.400 MHz from Traverse City, WWF-70 on 162.500 MHz from Gaylord, and KXI-33 on 162.450 MHz from West Branch. Broadcasts can generally be received within 40 miles of the NWR transmitters.

- Routine weather information is repeated every 5 to 10 minutes and is updated as necessary.
- NWRs equipped with an alert feature can work like a "smoke detector" for hazardous weather. These radios can sound an alarm during hazardous weather situations, alerting you to listen to the broadcast for the latest information.
- NOAA Weather Radio receivers can be found in electronic and department stores across the country.
- NOAA Weather Radio receivers range in cost from \$20 up to \$100 or more depending on the quality of the receiver and number of features.

Websites (.gov)

www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr

www.crh.noaa.gov/apx/nwr.htm